

October 19, 2006

NEWS RELEASE
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A Non-Profit 501 (C) (3) Corporation
PO Box 32517 San Jose, CA 95152
(408) 272-1222
www.PortugueseBooks.Org

FOR MORE INFORMATION Jose Rodrigues or Tony Goulart, (408) 272-1252
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The Portuguese Shore Whalers of California: 1854-1904

California shore whaling was a brutal and frightening way to make a living in the later half of the 1800s. Armed with archaic weapons, shore whalers set out in small boats to capture, kill, and turn into oil the largest creatures on earth. From Crescent City harbor in the north to San Diego Bay in the south, there were twenty-six 19th century-style shore whaling sites. All of these sites are studied in detail in this book by Portuguese Heritage Publications of California.

Portuguese immigrants were the major players in this deadly game of whale capture until the industry sputtered to a close in the early years of the 20th century. ***The Portuguese Shore Whalers of California: 1854-1904***, based on more than fifteen years of research by David Bertão, is their story, spread across over 300 pages of a hardcover, luxury limited edition. It is the only work of its kind published in the past 80 years.

As an important addition, the book adds a final section devoted to the lives of all known 19th century California shore whalers. This “whaler list” will be welcomed by genealogists and discerning readers alike; everyone who wishes to know more of the life of any individual whaler presented in the text. The book’s multi-faceted, detailed approach will surely mark it as an indispensable reference for the story of shore whaling in 19th century California and the role that Portuguese immigrants played in this important industry.

Portuguese Heritage Publications of California, Inc., is a non-profit corporation staffed entirely by volunteers who recognize the importance of researching and documenting important aspects of the Portuguese experience in California. The organization is an outgrowth of a research project that resulted in the publication of *The Holy Ghost Festas*. Over 100 researchers worked together to collect the oral and written histories of the independent organizations that have organized and celebrated this important cultural event in California since the late 1800's. A limited number of copies of the second printing are still available – the first printing of 4500 copies sold out in eight months.

For more information on *The Portuguese Shore Whalers of California, 1854-1904*, visit the Portuguese Heritage Publications of California website at www.PortugueseBooks.Org or write to P.O. Box 32517 San Jose, CA 95152